CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An automated gripper for grasping a fiber optic cable, comprising:

a first finger that has a distal end;

a second finger that has a distal end;

a pin that is coupled to said distal ends of said first and second fingers; and,

an actuator coupled to said second finger.

2. The gripper of claim 1, wherein said first finger has a V-shaped groove.

3. The gripper of claim 1, wherein said pin is attached to said first finger and extends through an aperture in said second finger.

4. The gripper of claim 1, wherein said actuator is coupled to said first finger and moves said first and second fingers in an inward direction and an outward direction.

5. The gripper of claims 2, wherein said V-shaped groove is located along said first finger so that a portion of the fiber optic cable extends below a bottom surface of said first finger and said second finger.

6. The gripper of claim 1, further comprising a return spring coupled to said first and second fingers.

7. The gripper of claim 1, wherein said actuator includes a pneumatic cylinder.

8. An automated gripper for grasping a fiber optic cable, comprising:

a first finger that has a groove and a bottom surface, said groove having a location so that a portion of the fiber optic cable extends below said bottom surface;

a second finger; and,

an actuator coupled to said second finger.

9. The gripper of claim 8, wherein said groove has a V-shape.

10. The gripper of claim 8, further comprising a pin that is attached to said first finger and extends through an aperture in said second finger.

11. The gripper of claim 8, wherein said actuator is coupled to said first finger and moves said first and second fingers in an inward direction and an outward direction.

12. The gripper of claim 8, further comprising a return spring coupled to said first and second fingers.

13. The gripper of claim 8, wherein said actuator includes a pneumatic cylinder.

14. An automated gripper for grasping a fiber optic cable, comprising:

a first finger that has a bottom surface and means for extending a portion of the fiber optic cable below said bottom surface;

a second finger; and,

an actuator coupled to said second finger.

15. The gripper of claim 14, wherein said means includes a V-shaped groove.

16. The gripper of claim 14, further comprising a pin that is attached to said first finger and extends through an aperture in said second finger.

17. The gripper of claim 14, wherein said actuator is coupled to said first finger and moves said first and second finger in an inward direction and an outward direction.

18. The gripper of claim 14, further comprising a return spring coupled to said first and second fingers.

19. The gripper of claim 14, wherein said actuator includes a pneumatic cylinder.

20. A method for gripping a fiber optic cable, comprising:

moving a gripper until a fiber optic cable makes contact with a pin that extends between a first finger and a second finger; and,

moving the second finger to grasp the fiber optic cable.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the fiber optic cable moves into a V-shaped groove of the first finger.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein a portion of the fiber optic cable extends below a bottom surface of the first finger and the second finger.

23. A method for gripping a fiber optic cable, comprising:

actuating a gripper so that a first finger and a second finger of the gripper grasp the fiber optic cable, the grasped fiber optic cable having a portion that extends below a bottom surface of the first finger and the second finger.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the fiber optic cable is located within a V-shaped groove of the first finger.